

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

FEB.

NO. 54

LEW GLEASON, Editor and Publisher

DON'T REACH FOR
THAT GUN, SHERIFF!
I WARNED YOU!

BLACK DIAMOND,
WHAT MADE YUH
TURN OWLHOOT?

WANTED
FOR MURDER!



NARESTAR



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LIFETIME CHRONOGRAPH STOPWATCH—WINDOW CALENDAR WRIST-WATCH PRECISION JEWEL

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This Watch on

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EVERY
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*Auto-
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Be sure to order this amazing Chronograph Stopwatch Window Calendar Wrist Watch WHILE THE SUPPLY LASTS! Use it and ENJOY IT—for 10 full days! If this wonderful combination timepiece isn't everything we say it is, return it for immediate refund of your purchase price. Don't take a chance on being disappointed. mail FREE TRIAL Coupon NOW!

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WANTED: BLACK DIAMOND



IT WAS AS UNBELIEVABLE AS A NIGHTMARE... BUT THE BLACK DIAMOND HAD A PRICE ON HIS HEAD! THE WILD WEST'S FOREMOST FIGHTER AGAINST INJUSTICE HAD TURNED CRIMINAL AND KILLER! HE HAD MURDERED INNOCENT PEOPLE IN COLD BLOOD—DEFIED THE LAW HE'D SWORN TO UPHOLD—AND TAKEN AN OATH OF ENMITY AGAINST THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE! CLEARLY THE BLACK DIAMOND HAD GONE MAD—FOR WHY ELSE WOULD LAWMEN PURSUE HIM DAY AND NIGHT? WHY ELSE WOULD THE LUD POSTER SCREAM...

DOSS WE WERE SAFE! WHY'D YOU TURN AROUND PER?

BECAUSE THE BLACK DIAMOND'S GUN IS EMPTY! BEFORE HE RELOADS I'M GON TO SQUASH THE MEDDLIN FOOL INTO THE PRARR!

WANTED: BLACK DIAMOND?!!

BANG! BANG!

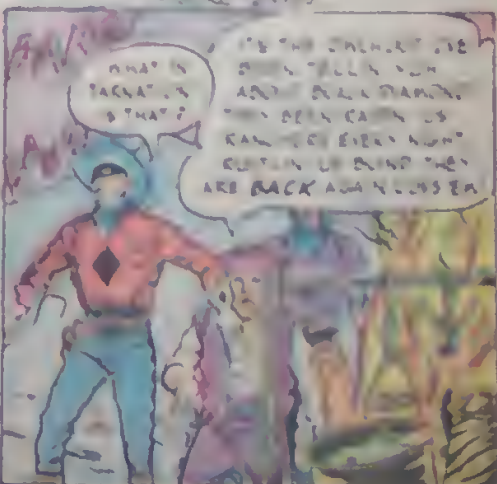


IT IS EVENING IN CAR BELLOUTS THE MOON LOOKS DOWN COLDLY UPON A BIRD OF PREY... WITH A BLOOD-RED TAIL...

NEAR THE LUMBERMILL A LADY AND HER TWO BOYS...

OKAY BOYS! TAKE IT!

CHOW! YIPPO YAAAAAA! YAAAAA



WHAT IS THAT? IS THAT?

IT'S THE CRIMINAL! HE'S TELLING YOU ABOUT BLACK DIAMOND. THEY BEEN CAATCHING HIM EVERYWHERE! BUT IN US BOUND UP BEING THEY ARE BACK AGAIN NEEER!

THE ROCK-EGG DOES!
"THEY AIN'T LEFT US
ALONE FOR A MINUTE!
BUT I'LL SHOW EM NO-
BODY'S GOIN' TO STRIP
MY RANCH BARE! I
WORKED TOO LONG TOO
HARD TO PUT IT TOGETHER

UNCLE JIM!
WAIT!
THEY'LL
TAKE A
SHOT AT
YOU!

IT'S THE OLD
GEEZER
HIMSELF!
BLAST
HIM!

IIIEEEE!

BANG! BANG!

THE DOUGGLES! THEY SAW US COMING
AND WANDERED! HOW'S UNCLE JIM?

HE'S DEAD DUNPER! THE RATS
NEVER GAVE HIM A CHANCE BUT
THEY WON'T SET AWAY ONE OF EM
LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND, A HOE-
PRINT! A CROOKED SHOE!
ZIG-ZAG SHAPED! I'LL
FIND THE RIDER IF
IT TAKES THE REST
OF MY LIFE.

THE FOLLOWING DAY ON BOOT HILL...

DID YOU SEE
THE SHERIFF
BLACK
DIAMOND?

I SAW HIM... AND WHAT I SAW I DIDN'T
LIKE! THE LAW IN THIS COUNTY IS A JOKE! BUT
ONLY THE SHERIFF IS LAUGHING! YOU KNOW
WHO I SPOTTED AS HIS DEPUTIES? FIVE OF
THE MOST WANTED
KILLERS IN THE
WEST.

CARIBE COUNTY IS CORRUPT
AS THEY COME! IT'S PRACTICAL-
LY A REFUGE FOR EVERY
OUTLAW GANG ON THE FRONT-
IER.

AND YOUR
JURISDICTION
MEANS NOTHING
IN THIS COUNTY
A MERE
SILENCE

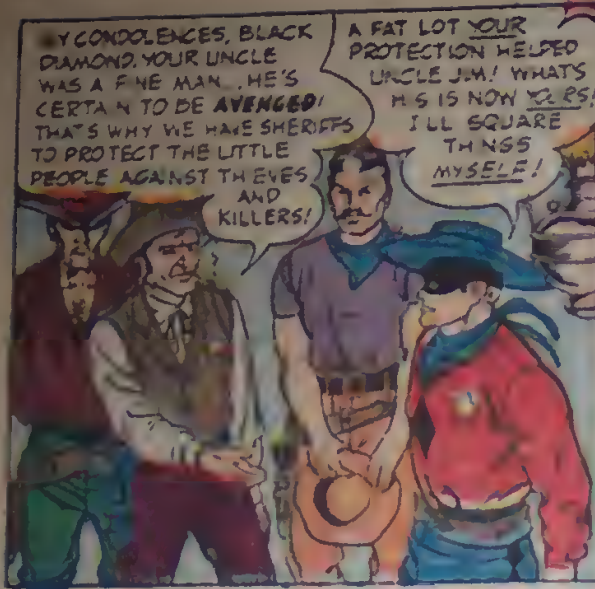
THE RANCHERS TOLD ME THAT CHUCK DEERING
AND HIS GANG ARE HIDING OUT SOME-
WHERE IN CARIBE COUNTY. THEY FIGURE
DEERING IS DOING THE RUSTLING... BUT
ALL PLEAS TO SHERIFF HINTON FALL
ON DEAF EARS

MAYBE HINTON'S
BEING CUT IN!
WHY ELSE WOULD
HE GIVE COMFORT
TO DEERING?

THE FOLLOWING DAY AS JIM GATESON'S BAKERY
RANCH IS PUT UP FOR SALE

DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS
BLACK DIAMOND? SHERIFF
HINTON BOUGHT THE RANCH
FOR A SONG!

"BUT" THE
LATEST IN A LONG
LIST OF PROPERTY
THEFTS! HINTON IS
NOT ONLY THE MOST
CROOKED AND POWER-
FUL MAN IN THE
COUNTY BUT THE
RICHEST!



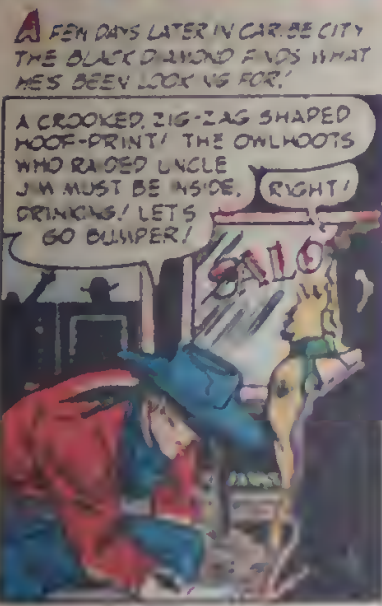
MY CONDOLENCES, BLACK DIAMOND, YOUR UNCLE WAS A FINE MAN. HE'S CERTAIN TO BE AVENGED! THAT'S WHY WE HAVE SHERIFFS TO PROTECT THE LITTLE PEOPLE AGAINST THIEVES AND KILLERS!

A FAT LOT YOUR PROTECTION HELPED UNCLE JIM! WHAT'S HIS IS NOW YOURS! I'LL SQUARE THINGS MYSELF!



HOLD ON, BLACK DIAMOND! I'M THE LAW AROUND HERE! YOUR STAR AN'T WORTH THE TIN IT'S MADE OF! SO DON'T MAKE TROUBLE. IF ANY VAGABONDS ARE GONNA BE CAUGHT, I'LL CATCH EM! YOU BUTT OUT!

LIKE BLAZES: I KNOW WHO I'M AFTER AND I'M GONNA GET EM! GONNA BUMPER



A FEW DAYS LATER IN CARBIDE CITY THE BLACK DIAMOND FINDS WHAT HE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR!

A CROOKED, ZIG-ZAG SHAPED HOOFF-PRINT! THE OWLHOOTS WHO RAISED UNCLE JIM MUST BE INSIDE, RIGHT! DRINKING! LET'S GO BUMPER!



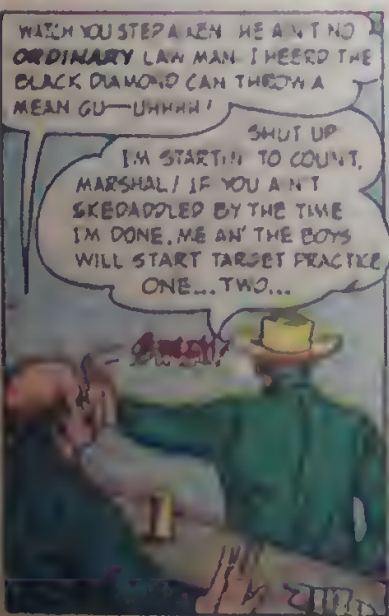
WHO OWNS THAT MILK-FACED PANTO OUT-SIDE?

I DO. WHAT'S IT TO YOU? N START?



THIS YOU'RE THE SHAKES WHO MURDERED MY UNCLE JIM GARRISON! I'M BRINGING YOU IN TO SHERIFF WATSON DO YOU COME QUIETLY OR DO YOU GET CARRIED OUT?

GET AWAY! STAND UP TO ALL FIVE OF US! LATCHEN MARSHALL! I'M GONNA COUNT TILL THREE IF YOU AN' OUT THAT DOOR YOU'LL BE DEADER THAN YOUR LUCKY DOG!

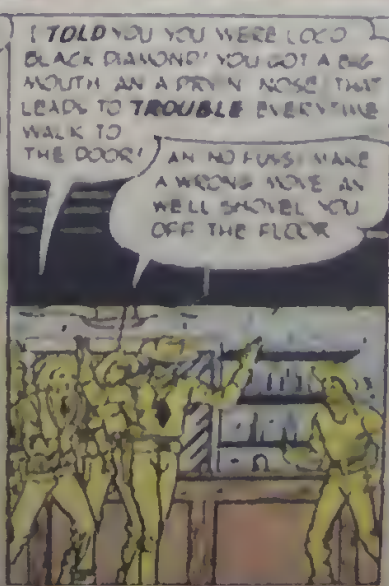
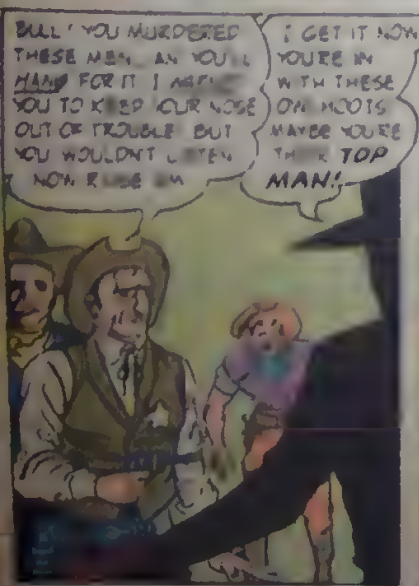
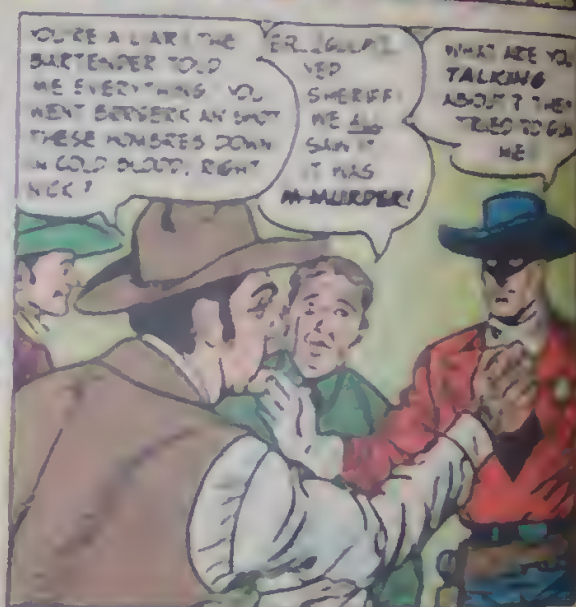


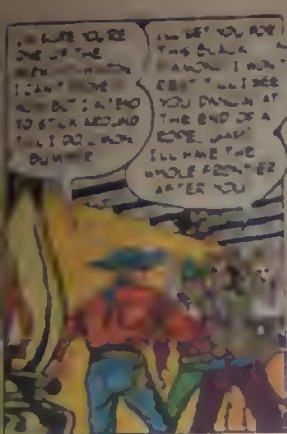
WATCH YOU STEPAHEN HE AN'T NO ORDINARY LAW MAN. I HEARD THE BLACK DIAMOND CAN THROW A MEAN GU—UHHHH!

SHUT UP I'M STARTIN TO COUNT, MARSHAL! IF YOU AN'T SKEDADDLED BY THE TIME I'M DONE, ME AN' THE BOYS WILL START TARGET PRACTICE ONE...TWO...



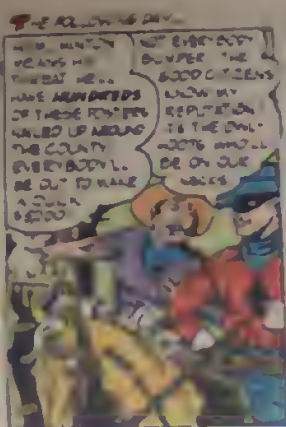
...THREE! GIVE IT TO THE GREASETALL...



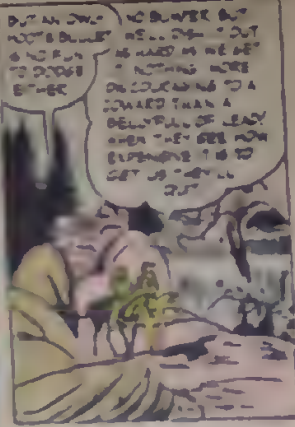


I HAVE BEEN
 THE SAME
 IN THE
 1940'S
 IN THE
 TO BE A
 TO BE A
 TO BE A

I'm not the one
who's black
and I won't
be... I'll see
you down at
the end of a
cave...
I'll have the
whole room...
after you



EVERYBODY
OVER THE
5000 CITIES
KNOW MY
REPUTATION
IS THE ONLY
-MOTIVATION
BE ON OUR
VOICES



BUT AN OWE
 NO BUNNY
 NO BUNNY
 TO DRESS
 EITHER

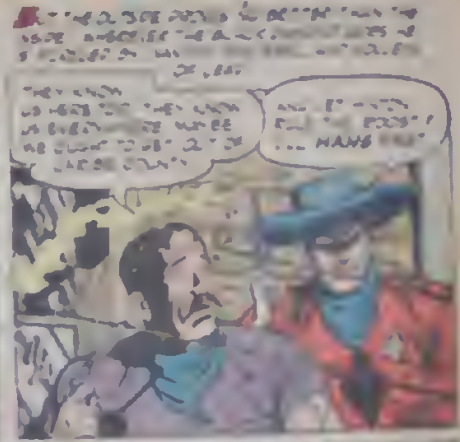
NO BUNNY BUT
 WELL, OH - OUT
 OF MY HANDS WE GO -
 NOTHING MORE
 ENCOURAGING TO A
 BOYARD THAN A
 BELLYFUL OF LEAN
 MEAT - THEY SEE HOW
 EXPENSIVE IT IS TO
 GET US - WELL -

DAVE COVERLY

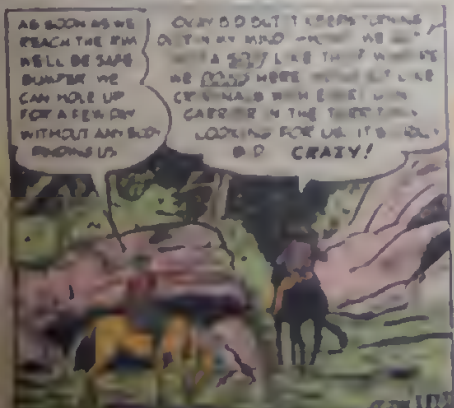
8. 7. 1960 - 1st day of rain.



DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY THERE WITH 15,000

[illegible]

A few days later a 3000 lb. calf



AS SOON AS WE
REACH THE RM
WE'LL BE SAFE
BUNKER WE
CAN HOLD UP
FOR A FEW DAY
WITHOUT ANYBODY
FINDING US

EVERYBODY TALKING
AT THE MOMENT WE
ARE ~~NOT~~ LOST IN THE
WE ~~ARE~~ HERE
CRAZY IN THE
CARRY IN THE
LOOKING FOR US IT'S
SO CRAZY!



LE SHADOWS! STUCK! THE
DANCE! STUCK! STUCK! STUCK!
THE SHADOWS! STUCK! STUCK!
THE SHADOWS! STUCK! STUCK!



CUTE BACK WHEN WE ARE
A ROUNDED
A. A. A. A.
R II WELL
ARE
OUT

THATS BLACK DIAMOND
ALRIGHT YOU CAN
SPOT HIM A MILE BY
THAT BIG GAZOON
HND ALWAYS IN



DONT INTEREST ME B
AS DEAD AS THE BLACK
H H A L L S
I GOT A HAND Y
WITH ME AND
MARTINA. FOR RE
FISH NEW T
KNEW HE. HEA
FOR THE AM
TO RES



THROW 'EM UP!
YOU
YOU GET IT!

H. HUTTON'S



THAT WAS A NICE
PIECE OF SHOOTIN YOU
DONE IN CARBIDE CITY
LAST NIGHT WAS
REAL YOU KILL TWO
YOUR HAND OUT AND
S'ELL THEM HOT
ONE MAN IN A
HUNDRED
KILL
THAT

1992



PLANTIN

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 84

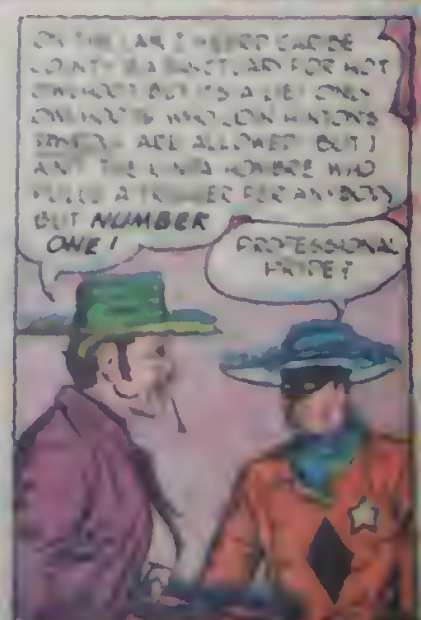
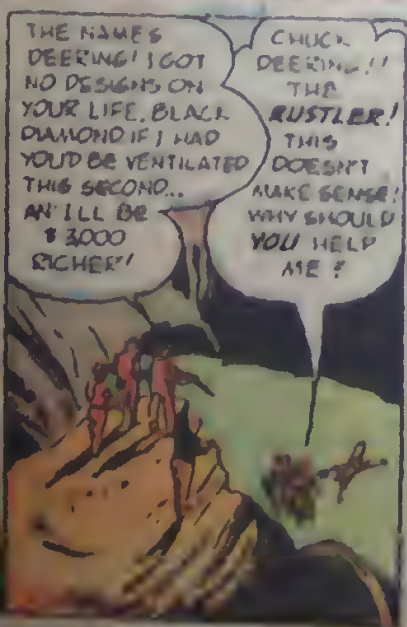
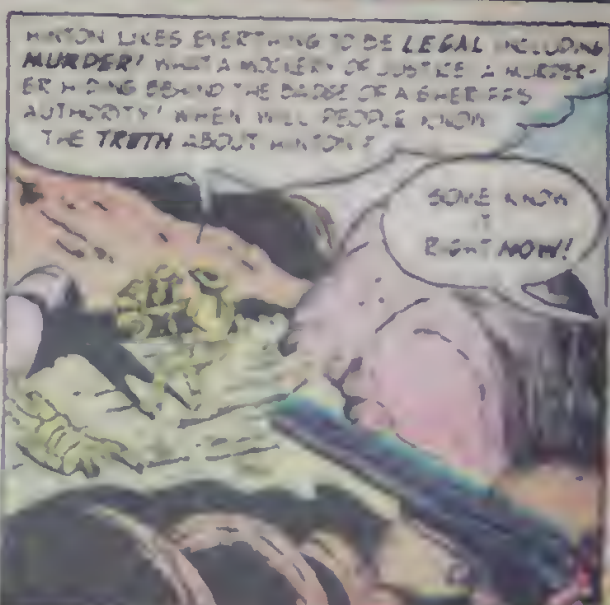
OLAN
RD
GETEM!




SHOOT
IT OUT!

11 FEB '68

ANG!
BANG!




HOPE JUST LIKE TO BE
BUSINESS FOR MY-
SELF WHEN I TURNED
DOWN HINTON'S PRO-
POSITION TO WORK FOR
HIM HE TURNED UGLY
THEN I BEGAN TO
HEAR RUMORS NOW
I BEEN RUSTY CATTLE
NOW I HELD UP STAGE-
COACHES NOW I
BEEN RADING THE
EL MUERTE SILVER
MINE



ANYME ALL I BEEN DOIN' ALL DAY IS
SHOOTIN AN BOOIN' PLAIN CARDS
AN DREAMIN' AN I RESENT BEIN
BLAMED FOR A MESS OF STICKUPS
AN KILLIN'S I
HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH

YOU TOUCH MY
HEART DEERING!
EVERY VEIN BLEEDS
FOR YOU



I KNOW YOU ANT GOT
ME MARSHALL EVEN T D ON I NEVER
A MAN ELEFT IN SELF DEFENSE
BRAN I ANT DENYIN' I A GOOD
WHERE OUTSIDE OF
CARIBE COUNTY YOU
CAN RUN WITH

I'LL BE IN PLE-
SOON SO YOU
DID FOR
N HALL D MINE



RIGHT FACT IS—WE AN
MY BOYS WERE COVERIN
HINTON'S GALLOO'S FROM
BEHIND IF THEY'D THROWN
ANY LEAD AT YOU WED
HAVE CASH RED EN
BUT I SHOULDVE KNOWN
YOU CAN DO YOUR
OWN CASHIN'!


I CAN
BUT I
CAN'T
DENY
YOUR
HELP IN
CRASHIN
HINTON



THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT
DEERING'S HIDEOUT

NOW MY IDEA IS THIS—THINKS
NOTHIN LIKE CATCHIN A CROOK WITH
THE GOODS LIKE YOU KNOW LATELY
A BUNCH OF OWNERS HAS BEEN
RUBBIN THE EL MUERTE SILVER ON
VENTS AN
I'M BLAMED
FOR IT

I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU
DEERING WILL COME
THE AUTHORITIES
AT EL
MUERTE



ACTUALLY
THAT'S
THE
ONLY
REASON
I
WANT
TO
GO
TO
THE
MINE

ACTUALLY
THAT'S
THE
ONLY
REASON
I
WANT
TO
GO
TO
THE
MINE



THE FOLLOWING DAY AT EL MUERTE SILVER MINE

RAGE EM WHOEVER
GOES FOR A GUN
GETS SHOT!

CHUCK DEERING! (GROW)
THE BLACK DIAMOND!
—YOU'RE IN CAUGHT!


TEMPORARILY
HERE'S WHAT
YOU'RE GOING
TO DO



NEXT DAY

WENT OUT TO THE MINE
YOU'RE LOVING THE FREEDOM
WITH ALL THAT HUNTIN' IS
THE VERY BEST

ALL THE WAY
UP ALL HILLS
OUT THERE
ANYBODY
WANT
TO
GO
TO
THE
MINE



MOMENTS LATER, IN THE TELEGRAPH SHACK...

SEND THIS OUT AT ONCE! TO SHERIFF HINTON OF CARIBE COUNTY! I WANT AN ESCORT OF DEPUTIES TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE LARGEST SILVER SHIPMENT EVER TO LEAVE OUR MINE! HE'S TO MEET THE DELIVERY WAGON AT BRONSON FORK!

FORK!



HINTON GOT THE MESSAGE! IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT HINTON-

I AM! A BAND OF OUTLAWS WILL ATTACK THE WAGON LONG BEFORE IT REACHES BRONSON FORK! WHEN IT DOES, DEBBING AND I WILL BE ON HAND TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!



ONE HOUR LATER, ON THE ROAD...

NOT A SIGN OF HINTON! IT CAN'T BE THAT HE PASSED UP THIS OPPORTUNITY

WAIT! THERE'S A STAGE-COACH COMING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION! NO COACH IS DUE AT THE HOUR! DO YOU THINK

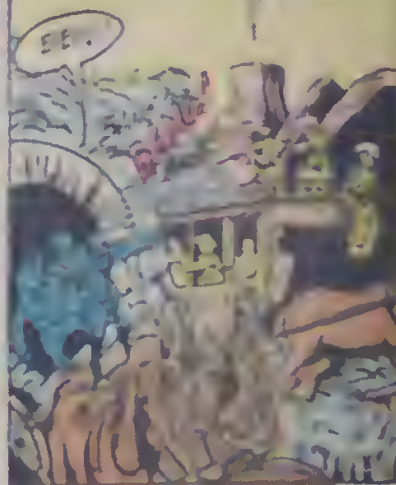


YES, THAT'S IT BUMPER! IT'S HINTON'S OAKHOOTS!

DRAW UP ALONGSIDE AN LET 'EM HAVE IT! CROWD THE BEGGARS OFF THE ROAD!



GUICK AFTER 'EM! WIDE 'EM OUT! GRAB THE SILVER!



BUT THE WAGON DIDN'T COME GLEETLY BEHIND...



IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND!

GET THIS STAGE OUTA HERE! I'VE SEEN THE BLACK DIAMOND IN ACTION BEFORE! FORGET ABOUT THE OTHERS!



BUT AS A SUDDEN METALLIC SOUND REACHES THE MASKED LEADER'S EARS...



BOSS ARE YOU LOCOR I THOUGHT WE WERE WAMMOOSIN!

NOT WHEN THE BLACK DIAMOND IS OUT OF! AMMUNITION! BY THE TIME HE CAN RELOAD, I'LL SPREAD HIM FLAT ON THE PRAIRIE! GO YOU DEVILS. GO!

LOOK BOSS! OUR BOYS ARE COMIN' DOWN FROM THE HILLS TO JOIN US!



GREAT! THE MORE HELP THE BETTER! WE GOT THE BLACK DIAMOND COLD! HE CAN'T ESCAPE! -AH, HE SEES US

(GASP) BLACK DIAMOND! THEY GOT US!

NOT YET. WE'VE GOT ONE CHANCE... REALIA POW! EL LOBO! STOP THEM! QUICK



(GASP!)...THEY UNDERSTOOD! THEY'RE TURNING THE COACH HORSES... BUT WE'RE STILL LICKED! THEY'VE GOT MORE OWL-HOOTING COMING ON HORSES!

DEERIN'S WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM! LET'S HANDLE THE BUNCH ON THE STAGE COACH



BANG! BANG! WHEELS! CRASH!

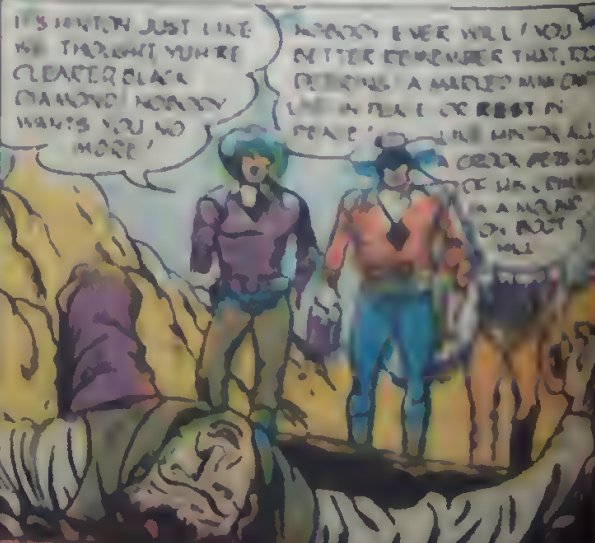


YOU'RE RIGHT B.D. HERE COMES DEERING HE'S HOODING UP



D-DON'T SHOOT... (GASP)... WE GIVE UP!

SHORTLY AFTER AS THE BLACK DIAMOND REMOVED A MASK FROM ONE OF THE COACH'S MEN.



IT'S INTEN JUST LIKE WE THOUGHT YOU'RE CLEARER BLACK DIAMOND! MORRIS WANTS YOU NO MORE!

MORRIS NEVER WILL! YOU BETTER REMEMBER THAT, TO DEERING A MASKED MAN ON THE HILL OF DEATH IN FEAR... LIKE INTEN ALL A CRACK PERS ON THE HILL OF DEATH IN FEAR... LIKE INTEN ALL A CRACK PERS ON THE HILL OF DEATH IN FEAR...



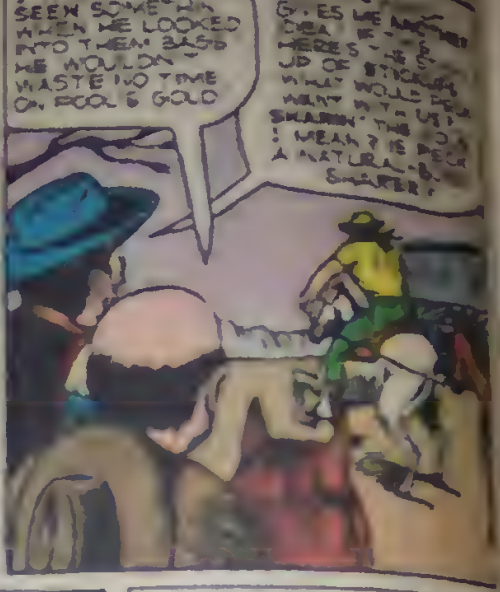
ONLY TOGETHER
LET ME HAVE IT!

SHHHHHH



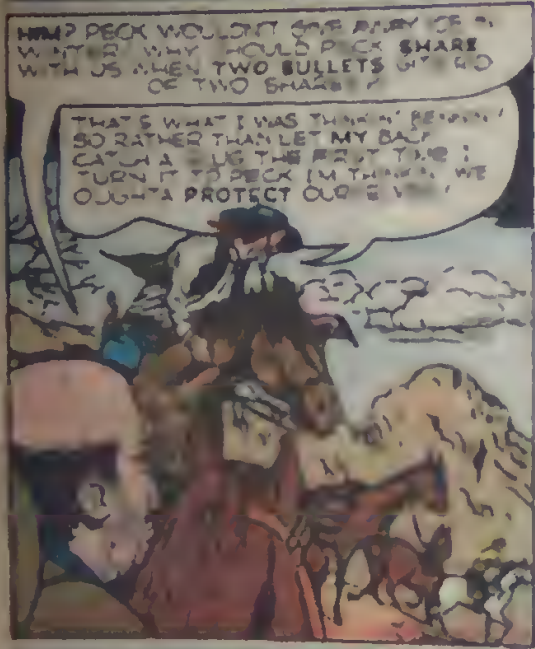
HE'S DEAD! GOT
MOVING! THERE'S
A CHANCE THEY
MIGHT SEND A
POSSE OUT, EVEN
THOUGH WE ARE
HEADIN' INTO
THE DESERT!

WE'RE COMIN'
DECK 'N' PECK!
BENNING!
WHAT DYUM
THINK OF
THIS DEAL?



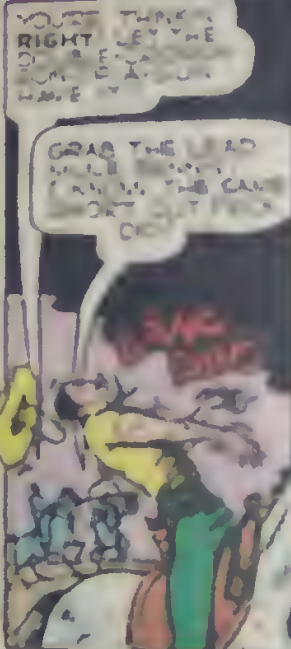
I THINK PECK
SEEN SOME-THIN
WHEN HE LOOKED
INTO THEM BASS
HE WOULDN'T
WASTE NO TIME
ON FOOL'S GOLD

RIGHT!
GIVES ME ANOTHER
DEAL IF I
HERE'S - HE'S
UP OF STICKS
WHAT WOULD PECK
WANT WITH US?
SHARIN' THE CA
I MEAN? IS PECK
A NATURAL - B
SHARER?



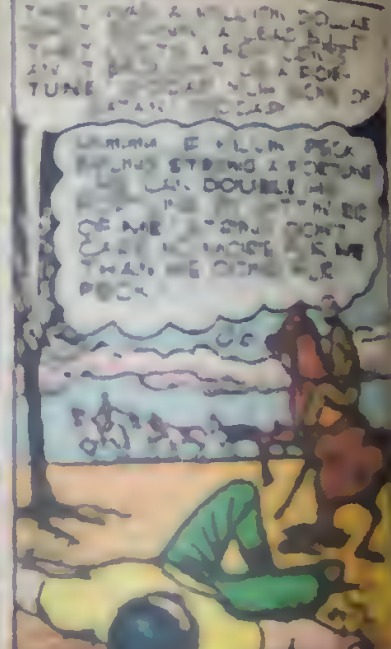
HMM? PECK WOULDN'T GIVE ANY OF A
WINTER WHY SHOULD PECK SHARE
WITH US WHEN TWO BULLETS GOT RID
OF TWO SHARERS?

THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKIN' BENNING!
SO RATHER THAN LET MY BACK
CATCH A BUG THE FIRST TIME I
TURN IT TO PECK I'M THINKIN' WE
OUGHTA PROTECT OURSELVES!



YOU'RE THINKIN'
RIGHT! LET THE
DICKS EAT UP
HAVE IT

GRAB THE LEAD
HOLE IN THE
CANE
SHORT CUT PECK



THAT'S A MILLION DOLLAR
DEAL! A LEAD HOLE
IN THE CANE
AN' THAT'S A FOR-
TUNE

LEADIN' E - LUM PECK
LEADIN' STING A FOR-
TUNE CAN DOUBLE HIS
BUT HE'S GOT TO BE
COME - ON! DON'T
CALL HIM A SHARER
THAN HE OUGHTA BE
PECK

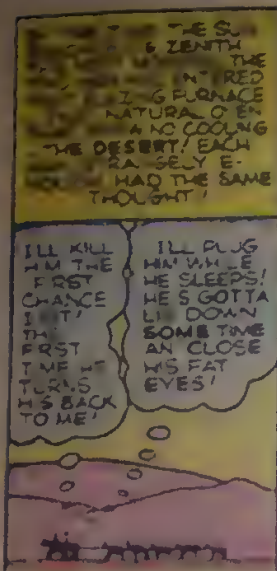


OH! YOU HIM? I CAN DOUBLE
MY AN' BY FUL - BOW!
THAT - IT - ILL - UY - TRAIL
TH

DECK'S AN' GUNTS! I'M NO
ON WHAT HE THANNIN'
IT WHAT I'M THANNIN'
N' B IT I'M NO THANNIN'
WAS NO BENNING?



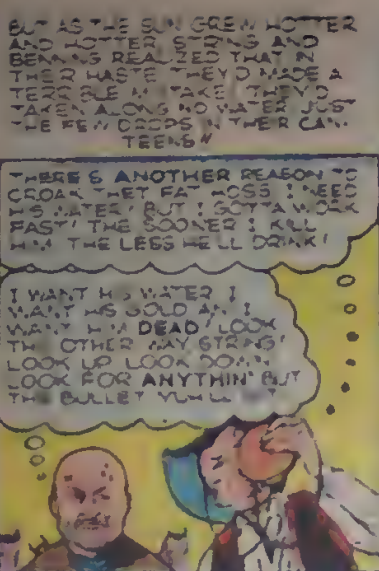
LEADIN' HE IS THANNIN'
THAT I'M ILL OUT
PLA - WHINNIN' IN
PLAS - P'S



THE SUN
IS ZENITH
THE
N' RED
Z' G FURNACE
NATURAL O' EN
A NO COOLING
THE DESERT! EACH
RA SELY E-
HAD THE SAME
THOUGHT!

I'LL KILL
HIM THE
FIRST
CHANCE
I GET!
THE
FIRST
TIME HE
TURNS
HIS BACK
TO ME!

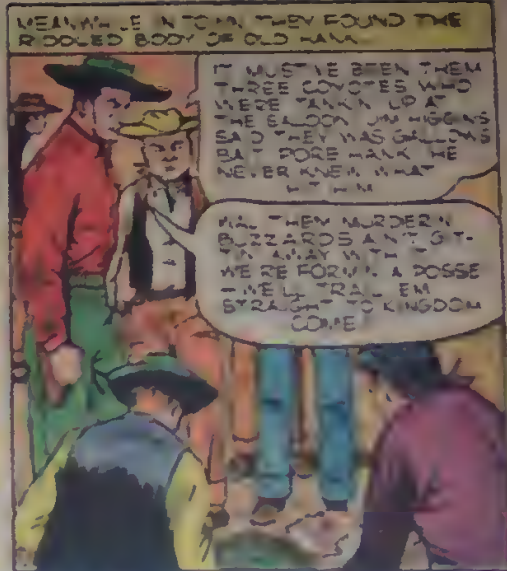
I'LL PLUG
HIM WHILE
HE SLEEPS!
HE'S GOTTA
LIE DOWN
SOME TIME
AN CLOSE
HIS FAT
EYES!



BUT AS THE SUN GREW HOTTER
AND HOTTER REAL STONY AND
BENANNY REAL TIED THAT IN
THEIR WASTE THEY MADE A
TERRIBLE MISTAKE THEY'D
TAKEN ALONG NO WATER JUST
THE FEW DROPS IN THEIR CAN.
TRENSH

THERE'S ANOTHER REASON TO
CROAK THEY FAT GROSS! NEED
HIS WATER! BUT! GOTTA WORK
FAST! THE SOONER I KILL
HIM THE LESS HE'LL DRINK!

I WANT HIS WATER I
WANT HIS GOLD AN I
WANT HIM DEAD! LOOK
TH OTHER WAY STRANG!
LOOK UP! LOOK DOWN!
LOOK FOR ANYTHIN' BUT
THE BULLET YOU'LL GET!



MEANWHILE IN TOWN THEY FOUND THE
RIDDLED BODY OF OLD HANK

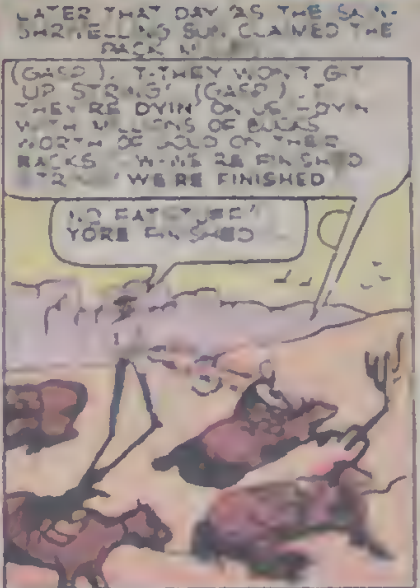
IT MUST'VE BEEN THEM
THREE COYOTES WHO
WERE TAKEN UP AT
THE SALOON JIM HIGGINS
SAID "HEY WAS GULLIBLE
BUT FORE HANK HE
NEVER KNEW WHAT
HE WAS DOIN"

WELL THEM MURDERN
BUZZARDS AN'T GOT
TIN ANAY WITH US
WE'RE FORVIN A DOSSE
WELL TRA-EM
STRAIGHT TO KINGDOM
COME



LATER THAT DAY...
ONE THING IS SURE!
THEY ON FOOT
MUST BE CRAZIER
THAN OLD HANK WAS!
FOR FORTY YEARS
HANK IMAGINED HE
MADE A GOLD STRIKE!
SOMETIMES HE
FILLED HIS BAGS
WITH ROCKS...
SOMETIMES WITH
SAND.

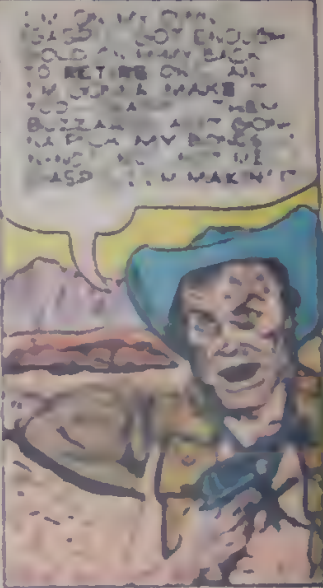
SHORE
BUT OLD
HANK WAS
SMELT AN
HARMLESS!
KILLIN HIM
WAS LIKE
KILLIN A
CHILD!



LATER THAT DAY AS THE SUN
SHRITELLING SUP. CLAIMED THE
PACK

(GASP) THEY WON'T GET
UP STRANG! (GASP) THEY
RE DYIN ON US - DYIN
WITH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
WORTH OF GOLD ON THEIR
BACKS - WE'RE FINISHED
WE'RE FINISHED

NO EAT'URE!
YORE FINISHED

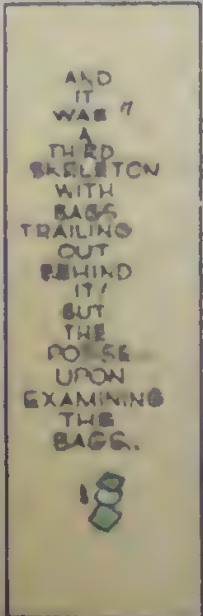


WELL GUY ENOUGH
OLD AN HARMY BACK
TO RETIRE ON AN
IMMENSE MAKE
TWO MILLION - THEN
BUZZARD AIT GOW
NA PLIN MY DOLLARS
HANK KILL ME
GASP I'M MAKIN' IT

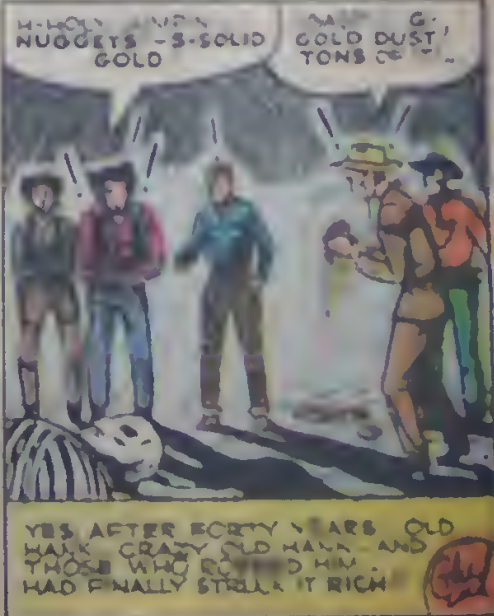


BUT BY SUNDOWN...
WE BEEN SCAPED A TOTAL AN A
HANGIN... HERE'S TWO SKELETON!
BUT WHERE'S THE THIRD?

NEBBS IT'S WHERE'S THEY FLOCK
OF VULTURES IS RIGIN! CANON!



AND
IT WAS A
THIRD
SKELETON
WITH
BAGS
TRAILING
OUT
BEHIND
IT! BUT
THE
POLICE
UPON
EXAMINING
THE
BAGS.



W-HOLY MOTHER
NUGGETS - S-SOLID
GOLD

SAY G!
GOLD DUST!
TONS OF IT!

YES AFTER FORTY YEARS OLD
HANK CRAZY OLD HANK AND
THOSE WHO ROTTED HIM
HAD FINALLY STRUCK IT RICH

IN JUN JOE

AND

The Forked Stick

by "The Old Cowhand"



A bunch of us were lazing around the corral at the Double Bar-O ranch, about 20 miles north of Amarillo, one day back in July 1904. Things were pretty quiet as most of the boys and the bossman were away driving a big herd to market.

We hadn't had a bit of fighting trouble or anything since Black Diamond and Bumper had helped us drive the rustlers north. Yes sir, things were as dead as a door nail, that we were beginning to yen for some excitement or something.

Payday was still two weeks off so there wasn't much use going to town. We were bored stiff, all of us.

Whilst we were chewing the fat, suddenly old Mark looked up, his face full of excitement, and yelled, "Whoopee—someone's riding in over the desert. Look at that dust yonder."

Sure enough this was no mirage for soon we could see the rider coming as plain as a possum. It turned out to be no stranger, but our old pal, Black Diamond.

Boy, were we glad to see him. Of course we would have been glad to see anyone, but good old Black Diamond was a feast for sure eyes.

He was mighty welcome and just in time for chow. After we'd filled our bellies good and rolled ourselves a smoke out of the Bull Durham sack, we sat back and asked Black Diamond if he knew anything worth talking about. He did and told us an amusing yarn.

It seems he had been up in Goldfield, Nevada, the big boom mining town that everybody was talking about. The first real strike had been made only about a year ago right in the desert, and the town now had over 10,000 people and was growing crazy-like. There were already six or seven big mines in operation and thousands of claims staked out.

There was a lot of trouble in the town, what with mighty little law and some rough hombres from all over. Soon these sneaky devils found a clever way of reeling themselves a fortune—something new and unheard of in those parts—they called it "highgrading." These highgraders would take a job in the mines at \$5.00 a day. They could have gotten \$50.00 a day tending bar or shoeing horses.

But not for them—because you could only highgrade in the mines. This is the way they were working it.

All the mines in Goldfield were producing millions of dollars and every hour or so some miner would run onto a hunk of high grade ore—a small piece, size of a fire brick might assay up to a thousand dollars in pure gold. Sometimes a miner would come upon a real nugget of solid gold—worth \$5,000.00 or more.

Now it seemed a real shame to shovel this high grade ore into the company bins along with the regular ore. It seemed a lot smarter to hide these hunks of ore under their shirts and lug them off at the end of the day. Some guys even put on a woman's corset under their shirt and attached special pockets so they could lug off a lot of high grade ore.

It got so bad finally, that the company bosses decided to take steps to stop this stealing.

It was just at this time that Black Diamond was in Goldfield, and the big Florence mine hired him to put a stop to "highgrading."

The very first day, while he was searching for the hideout in the hills where the thieves were storing the loot, he ran onto an old Injun prospector who was looking for gold deposits with a forked stick—a divining rod.

You see there are many who believe that if you hold a forked ash stick horizontally out in front of you and walk slowly over likely ground, if there's gold underneath the surface, the stick will bend towards the earth.

While Black Diamond was talking with old Injun Joe—who comes along, but a couple of miners pulling a burro behind them. When they saw Black Diamond, somehow, they seemed to recognize him and turned sharp to beat it.

But the burro wouldn't budge.

Black Diamond got suspicious, when they decided to stay with the burro, instead of running for safety—and they acted mighty guilty.

"Walk over and see what they got," said Black Diamond to the Indian, "and I'll keep those rats covered."

Over goes old Injun Joe. The two strangers just stood there—as they had to, when Black Diamond had a bead on them with both six shooters.

"We ain't done a thing—not nothin' at all," exclaimed one of them. And they looked real innocent too. But just then old Joe's forked stick began to twitch and shiver, and it pointed right to the pack bags on the burro.

"Come quick, Black Diamond, come quick," yelled Injun Joe, excitedly. "I have found the stolen gold."

Black Diamond raced over, opened up the pack bags—and sure enough, they were filled with high grade ore and nuggets of pure gold, all stolen from the mine.

When they got the pack bags back to the assay office in Goldfield, they were found to be worth \$100,000.00—quite a haul.

The two highgraders were tried up in Tonapah and got two years—suspended. But the company was happy because it scared off the highgraders for a while, and they put Pinkertons in the mines to watch out.

And who do you think these highgraders turned out to be. Well, sir, two of the rustlers, Black Diamond had driven off the Double Bar-O six months before.



COMANCHE WAR DRUMS



THEY SAY THAT BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER, BUT NOT WHEN THERE'S BAD BLOOD BETWEEN BROTHERS. AS IF BATTLING A MURDEROUS COMANCHE UPRISING WEREN'T TROUBLE ENOUGH, THE BLACK DIAMOND FINDS HIMSELF TORN IN A WEB OF PASSIONS IN WHICH BROTHER IS Pitted AGAINST BROTHER IN A DUEL OF HATRED THAT CAN ONLY END IN DEATH AND DISASTER!

ONE BLAZING HOT AFTERNOON AT A SOUTHWEST ARMY OUTPOST, FORT ADAMS—

MAJOR! MAJOR TUCKER! QUICK! THE SUPPLY TRAIN IS HERE!

GOOD HEAVENS—GASP!—NOT ANOTHER ATTACK!!

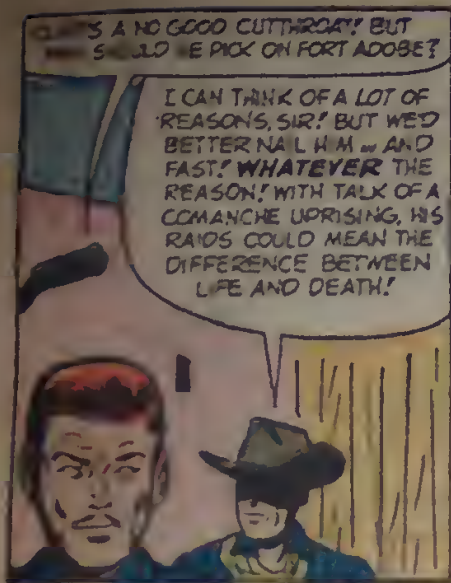
YUH MEAN—WHAT'S LEFT OF IT?



YES, MAJOR! AGAIN! AGAIN! AGAIN! THEY'VE AWAY WITH MOST OF OUR SUPPLIES! ACCORDING TO L' HART'S FEARS, THE SAME BUNCH! YOUR BROTHER! IN CLINT TUCKER!

CLINT TUCKER'S BAND MAINTAINS THE SUPPLY COUNT IS AT LEAST TWENTY ONLYFOOTS IN HIS BACK!

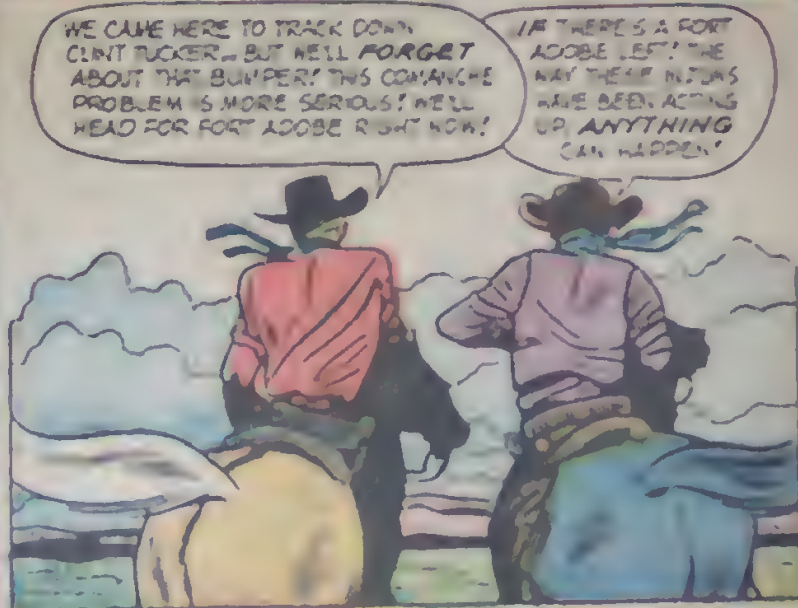
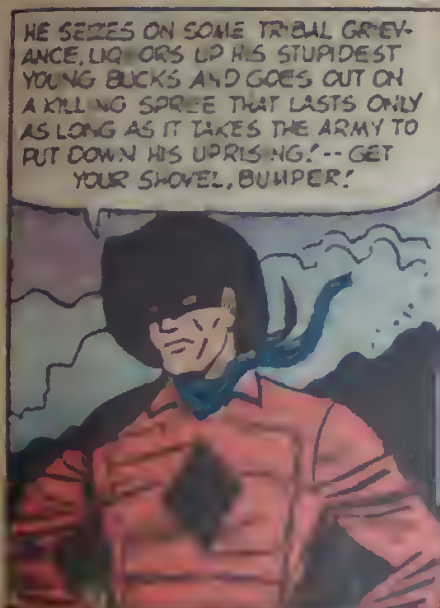




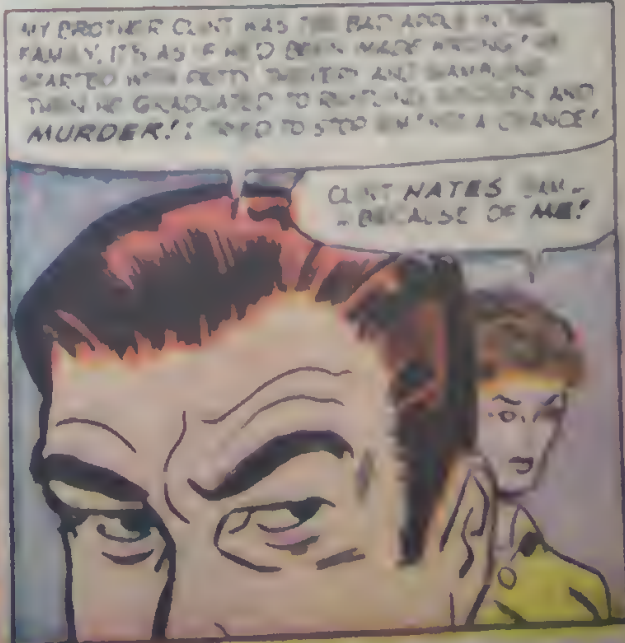
THAT EVENING, NOT FAR
FROM FORT ADOBE...

THEY'RE ALL DEAD INSIDE, BLACK
DIAMOND! SAME AS IN THOSE
OTHER RANCHES WE RAN ACROSS!

WE'RE IN FOR IT, BUMPER! EVERY
NOW AND THEN, SOME COMANCHE
HOT HEAD GETS HIS ON'S OF
GRANDEUR, OF PUSHING THE
WHITE MAN BACK BEYOND
THE MESS...SS PP?

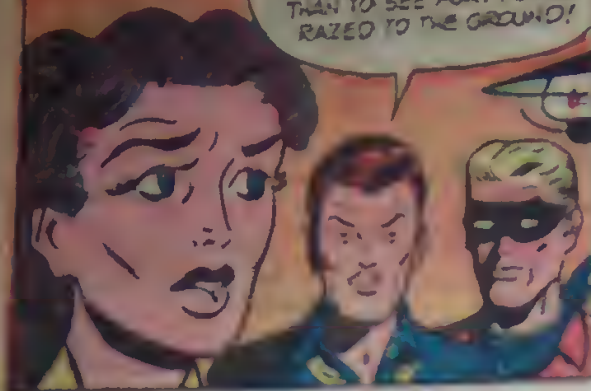


LATER THAT NIGHT AT FORT ADOBE...



CLINT FANCIED HIMSELF IN LOVE WITH ME. HE WANTED ME TO RUN AWAY WITH HIM. BUT I LOVED SAM. WHEN I MARRIED SAM, CLINT WENT BERSERK. HE EVEN THREATENED TO KILL SAM!

THAT'S TRUE BLACK DIAMOND. CLINT WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE FORT ADOLPH RAZED TO THE GROUND!



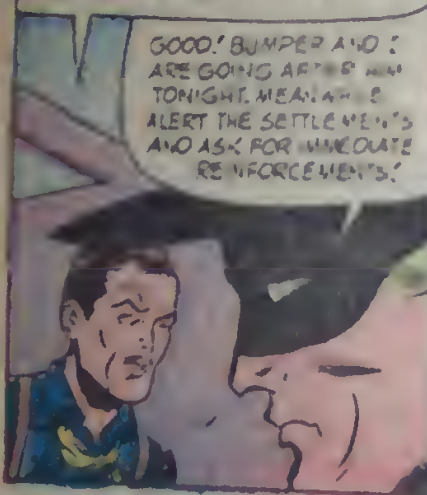
HE'LL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE UNLESS WE STOP HIM! MAJOR: I KNOW CLINT TUCKER IS YOUR BROTHER, BUT TO ME HE'S A COLD BLOODED KILLER I'VE BEEN TRAILING FOR A MONTH!

YOU NEEDN'T EXPLAIN BLACK DIAMOND. CLINT'S ATTACKS HAVE EXPOSED THE FORT AND SETTLEMENTS TO COMING MASSACRE.



CLINT SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE ANY OTHER DESPERADO. YOU HAVE MY FULL COOPERATION IN TRACKING HIM DOWN AND DESTROYING HIM!

GOOD! BUMPER AND I ARE GOING AFTER HIM TONIGHT. MEANWHILE ALERT THE SETTLEMENTS AND ASK FOR IMMEDIATE REINFORCEMENTS!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING ON THE PLAINS

TUCKER PASSED THIS WAY! THERE ARE WAGON TRACKS EVERYWHERE! HIS HORSE MUST BE IN THOSE WOODS!

HE'S SURE AS HELL OUT OF HERE! HE CAN'T MAKE A DIME OUT OF THE THINGS HE STOLE. ALL HE GOT WAS FOOD AND AND US... + GASP! LISTEN!! LET YOUR BAR CLOSE TO THE GROUND!



IT'S A LARGE BODY OF PEOPLE LEAVING THIS WAY

WHERE THEY COME THEY'RE CONQUERING



RIDE FOR YOUR LIFE! BUT HEAVEN HELP US IF OUR HORSES STUMBLE!

Y-YOU'RE TELLING ME? THEY'LL KILL US ALIVE! NOT A LONG GIT!!



THAT'S A PLUNDER! AT DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THE PLAINS CAN CATCH US ONE MILLION AND LOSE MY FATHER'S SWORD!





WERE ALL RIGHT,
BUMPER! WE'RE
OUT OF THEIR
RANGE NOW!

!GASP! -- BLACK
DIAMOND! LOOK
W-WHATS AHEAD!



M-MORE COMANCHES!! !GASP!
---WE'RE CAUGHT IN A TRAP!!
..T-THEY'RE ALL AROUND US! T-
THE DEVILS! THEY'VE GOT US
BOXED IN!



LET 'EM HAVE IT, BUMPER!
WE WON'T GO TO THE HAPPY
HUNTING GROUNDS ALONE!

D-DON'T SAY THAT! I
DON'T WANT TO GO THERE
AT ALL!

SUDDENLY AS THE HOWLING COMANCHES GOT CLOSER..



IEEEE!

B.D.! !GASP!
..THEY'RE GOING
DOWN, BUT NOT
FROM OUR GUNS!

SOMEBODY ELSE
HAS OPENED UP
ON THEM!



!GASP! -- BLACK DIAMOND!
IT'S THE ARMY!

WHO WONDER BUMPER!
PUT 'EM TO ROUTE! LET'S
BLAST 'EM!

BAM

BAM



IT'S A GOOD THING I TOOK THE TROOP OUT ON
MANUEVERS! THEY HAD YOU IN A VICE!

THEY'RE FOOLS! WHEN WILL THEY
UNDERSTAND THAT KILLING A FEW
HELPLESS SETTLERS AND STRAY
RIDERS CAN DO NOTHING BUT
GET THEM INTO TROUBLE!



THERE'S NO QUESTION NOW
BUT THAT THE COMANCHES
ARE OUT FOR BLOOD NO-
BODY'S SAFE OUTSIDE
THE WALLS OF THE FORT!
YOU'D BETTER COME BACK
WITH US, BLACK DIAMOND!

NOT YET, WE HAVE A
SHOWDOWN WITH
GUNT BLACKBERRY'S
HOLDING IN THESE
WALLS SOMEWHERE.
I WON'T COME DOWN
WITHOUT HIM! COME
ON, BUMPER!

HOURS LATER AT MOUNTAIN FALL—

THEIR TRAIL LEADS RIGHT UP THIS MOUNTAIN, BLUNDER, THEY'RE PROBABLY HOLED UP IN SOME ONE.

WE HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT, BLACK DIAMOND.

ACCORDING TO THE MAJOR, CLINT'S GOT HALF AN ARMY WITH HIM.



IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND, ALL RIGHT! SNEAK UP BEHIND HIM SO HE CAN'T ESCAPE. THEN WE'LL MOVE IN ON HIM!

OKAY, CLINT. C'MON, BOYS!



TEN MINUTES LATER—

WASPS!—BLACK DIAMOND!—T-THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US! THEY SEEN US COMING!

WE COULD SHOOT 'EM OUT AND TAKE PLENTY OF 'EM WITH US! BUT I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA! WE'LL USE NATURE IN OUR DEFENSE!



WE'LL START A ROCK SLIDE! THEN WE'LL COME DOWN BEHIND IT!



LOOK OUT! WASPS!

IT'S A SLIDE!

WEEEE!



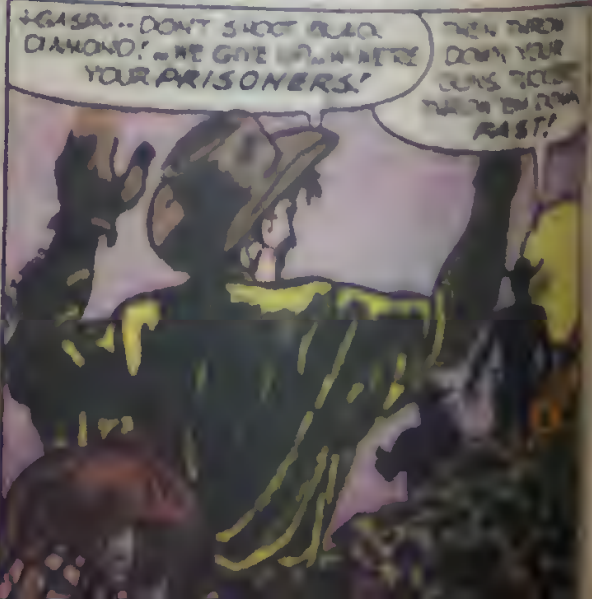
THE POOR SLOBS! THEY NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT 'EM!

RRUMBLE!



WASPS!—DON'T SHOOT BLACK DIAMOND!—WE GOT TO SAVE YOUR PRISONERS!

THEN THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS! THEN WE'LL THROW 'EM DOWN FAST!



ORTLY AFTER, AT THE OUTLAWS HANGOUT...

GET YOUR HORSES, JOKER. WE'RE RIDING BACK TO FORT ADOBE TONIGHT!

SO IT'S ALL OVER WITH ME, EH? WELL, IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER. EVERY BAD MAN COMES TO A BAD END. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BLACK DIAMOND?



IT'S RIGHT IN YOUR CASE, TUCKER. YOU DESERVE HANGING TEN TIMES OVER. YOUR RAIDS ON ARMY SUPPLY TRAINS LEFT THE SETTLEMENTS EXPOSED TO COMANCHE RAIDS!

FUNNY! I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY. I FELT I WAS GETTING EVEN WITH MY BROTHER SAM. I HATED SAM! SAM STOLE THE GIRL I LOVED AND HE WINS EVEN IN THE END. A GOOD-NATURED STUPID SAM! I GET WANGED AND HE GOES ON WITH DOLLY!



TWO HOURS LATER, ENROUTE TO FORT ADOBE...

BELIEVE IT OR NOT... THAT'S WHAT TURNED ME BAD -- LOSING DOLLY TO SAM! I LOVED DOLLY MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD! I'D HAVE GIVEN MY LIFE FOR HER! -- AND SHE PREFERRED THAT STIFF-NECKED COLORLESS FOOL!

AS IT TURNED OUT, SHE MADE A WISE CHOICE! BETTER THE COLORLESS MAJOR THAN THE COLORFUL CUTTHROAT!



GASP! FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN!... BLACK DIAMOND... C-COMANCHES ARE ATTACKING FORT ADOBE!!

THE FORT'S AFIRE! HEAVEN HELP THE POST IF THOSE LIKERTED UP FOOLS BREACH THE STOCKADE!



DOLLY'S IN THERE, BLACK DIAMOND! I DON'T CARE A LICK FOR THE OTHERS -- BUT THE GIRL I LOVE CAN'T... MUSTN'T... DIE! TAKE A CHANCE ON ME, BLACK DIAMOND! GIVE US BACK OUR GUNS! LET US FIGHT THE COMANCHES!

ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU'D ONLY TAKE IT ON THE LAM!



NO! NEVER! NOT NOW! NOTHING MATTERS TO ME BUT THAT GIRL'S LIFE! OUR FIREPOWER COULD TURN THE TIDE. DON'T BE A FOOL, LAWMAN. IF NOT THE GIRL, THINK OF THE OTHERS IN THE FORT.



TAKE A CHANCE! THE FORT'S IN A FIX IF YOU DON'T!

ALL RIGHT, TUCKER. YOU GET YOUR GUNS DOUBLE-CROSS ME AND YOU WON'T LIVE TO GLOAT ABOUT IT!



BUT MOMENTS LATER--

SUCKER! THAT STUPID FRILL MEANS **NOTHING** TO ME! LET HER **DIE** FOR CHOOSING SAM INSTEAD OF ME! C'MON, BOYS! JOIN THE SLAUGHTER! AFTER ALL, IT'S **US** WHO PUT THE **GUNS** IN THOSE REDSKINS' HANDS!

† GASP! THE DIRTY--H--HE **LIED!**



WE'VE BEEN RAIDING THE SUPPLY TRAINS IN ORDER TO SELL ARMY GUNS AND MUNITION TO THE COMANCHES

WAIT A MINUTE, FORT ADOBE ISN'T DONE FOR YET! NOT WHILE THE WINDS BLOWING IN THE DIRECTION IT IS! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



SHORTLY AFTER IN THE SHADOWS OF FORT ADOBE--

THERE WASN'T BEEN RA-- HERE A MONTH. THE PRAIRIE GRASS IS LIKE **TINDER!**

I GET IT! THE FIRE WON'T JUMP THE CLEARING AND REACH THE FORT. THE WIND WON'T LET IT!



YIIII! EEEAAAAA

IT'S **WORKING**! THEY'RE TURNING **BACK!**



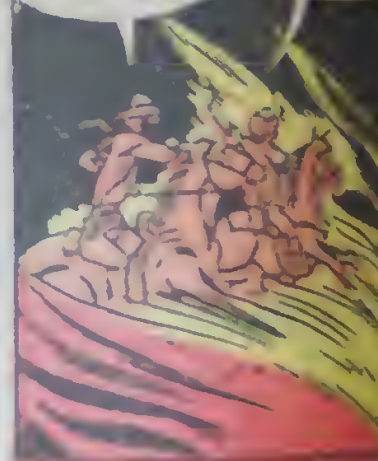
MAJOR TUCKER LOOK! THE BLACK DIAMOND HAS STARTED A PRAIRIE FIRE! THE REDSKINS ARE ON THE RUN!

IT'S A-- A MIRACLE! WE'RE **SAVED**, DOLLY! WE'RE **SAVED!**



CLINT--GASP-- CLINT! WE'RE **TRAPPED!** THE FIRES ALL **AROUND US!**

WIND! CAN'T BE--RIDE!-- **RIDE!**



NO! T--THERE'S NO WAY OUT-- IT'S ALL AROUND-- **YAAAAAAAAAAAA!**



THE NEXT MORNING--

GOODBYE, BLACK DIAMOND! WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, ESPECIALLY MRS. CLINT'S. HAD SOME SLEIGHT FEELINGS THAT THERE WAS SOME GOOD LEFT IN CLINT--BUT THAT'S ERASED NOW!

I SHOULD BE MRS. TUCKER BUT TUCKER WAS AS **ROTTEN** AS THE MAJOR IS FINE! HE FANNED THE FLAMES OF MY-- AND DIED IN A **TRUCKLE** FLAME AS HE CELEBRATED!



RED FIRE'S DEATH DIVE!

WE WARNED YOU TO LAY OFF, KID! NOW YOU'RE GOIN' TO STAY DOWN THERE! THAT WAGON YOU WERE SO CURIOUS ABOUT—IT'S GON' TO TURN INTO DAVEY JONES' LOCKER—WITH YOU INSIDE IT!

(GASP!) S-STONEFACE SAM!... YOU'RE BEHIND TH'S!!

CURIOSITY CAN TAKE A PERSON INTO THE UNLIKELIEST PLACES!—EVEN A MURDER MYSTERY AT THE BOTTOM OF A CREEK! THE TOUGH PART WASN'T GETTING IN... TO A JAM! THE TRICK FOR REDFIRE WAS GETTING OUT OF IT...WHICH WASN'T TOO EASY WITH A DEEP CREEK SITTING ON YOUR HEAD AND THE TERRITORY'S WORST CUTTHROATS AT YOUR THROAT!



THE RODEO HAD COME TO TOWN AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY—INCLUDING RED FIRE—HAD TURNED OUT TO SEE IT!

NOW JANE JOHNSON, WITH OUT HOLDING ON, WILL PICK UP A NECKERCHIEF WITH HER TEETH! NOTE THE SPEED AT WHICH HER HORSE IS RACIN'!!

THAT GIRL SURE CAN RIDE, EH, WOLF?



WOOOOF

JANE JOHNSON'S PERFORMANCE WAS MAGNIFICENT BUT NOT EVERYBODY ON THE PREMISES WAS WATCHING IT!

YOU GOT EVERY-THIN' I WANT, A WAGON? YIM DELLS THE CASE FOR WAGON. OUR JUDICIAL TO CLIMB IN ON ANY BODY IF I HEAR THE TICKET WAGON.

OH, BUT I'LL TELL THE POLICE I DON'T BELIEVE YOU KNOW AS FAR AS I CAN TELL A HORSE.



WE DON'T TRUST YOU N'THER JOHNSON, SO WE'LL EVEN JUST SHOOT STRAIGHT AT HIM FAST. YOU'LL HAVE NOthin' TO WORRY ABOUT!

I BETTER NOT, YOU DON'T KNOW ME WELL ON LONG BUT I'M NOBODY TO DOUBLE CROSS.



SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE TICKET-WAGON...

OH!! IT'S YOU, ED! WE GOT A LOTTA CASH HERE! CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL...

THAT'S RIGHT, BILL! I RECKON WE TOOK IN MORE TODAY THAN WE DID ALL WEEK. THOUGHT I'D DROP IN AN SEE IF EVERYTH'N WAS ALL RIGHT.



THAT'S MIGHTY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, ED. BUT EVERYTH'N'S FINE! JUST FI-HEEE

SORRY, BILL! IT WAS YOU OR THE MONEY. AN I LIKE MONEY MORE!



B-BOSS... I HEARD A SHOT FROM THE TICKET-WAGON.

S-SO DD... SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG. BILL IS IN THERE ALONE.



QUICK! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPED-BEEAAA

THE BOYS'RE ON THE JOB! THIS GIVES ME A PERFECT GET-AWAY!



WHERE GOES JOHN? THEY GOT THE CROWD WITH THEM!

A-Y-ALL C-Y-ALL... WE ARE ALL HERE KNOW THE LIGHT PLACE!



MOMENTS LATER, AS THE STARTLED CROWD RUSHES TOWARD THE TICKET-WAGON—

(GASP!) T-THERE'S BEEN A SHOOTING!

NO-A HOLDUP! THEY JUST GOT AWAY!

WHERE'S MY BROTHER? (GASP) ED! ED! WHERE ARE YOU?!



DON'T GO INTO THE WAGON! IT'S A TRAP! (READ YOUR MIND) WE WERE TAKEN A HO-TAGS!

N-NO! (GASP) THEY'LL KILL ME! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND MY BROTHER! PLEASE PLEASE!



THEY WERE AS THE FIRST

THEY WERE AS THE FIRST

THEY WERE AS THE FIRST

THEY WERE AS THE FIRST

THEY WERE AS THE FIRST

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THEY WERE AS THE FIRST

THEY WERE AS THE FIRST

IT'S A TERRIBLE THING!
DEAD. ONE MISSING.
LET'S SKEDADDLE WITHOUT
THE RODEO OUT A FAT
OF RECEIPTS. TODAY SHORE
A BLACK DAY FOR THIS TOWN!

SUDDENLY, AS THE FERRY REACHES THE MIDDLE
OF GERMAN'S CREEK

HEY! L-LOOK OUT!
THAT WAGON---

WHINNEEY!!

(GASP!) THERE'S
NOBODY ON IT!
N-NO DRIVER!

THOSE HORSES
(GASP!) T-THEY'LL
BE DRAGGED DOWN
WITH THE WAGON!
THEY'LL DROWN!!

I-IVE GOT TO FREE THEM

T-THAT'S THE ONLY WAY
ONE WAGON STRAP

G-GRANDS! (GASP!)
I'M TAKING THEM A
SHORE!! I'LL MEET YOU
ON THE OTHER SIDE!!

(CRYING) OF
JE... I...
OUTA THE...
RY LA...

WANT TO GET A...
WHAT I...
DRIVER...
HE...
T-THAT'S THE ONLY WAY
ONE WAGON STRAP

WANT TO GET A...
WANT TO GET A...
WANT TO GET A...

BUT THAT DON'T
MAKE SENSE!
WHAT'S GOING
HOMES TO
GAIN BY LOSIN'
HIS WAGON?!

THAT'S THE MYSTERY
GRAM... THAT VAGON
COULDN'T HAVE
OVER BY ACCIDENT!
IT THOUGHT IT
WAS THE ONLY WAY
TO GET THEM
T-THAT'S THE ONLY WAY
ONE WAGON STRAP

THE MYSTERY...
I...
WANT TO GET A...
WANT TO GET A...
WANT TO GET A...

WANT TO GET A...
WANT TO GET A...
WANT TO GET A...

I SWEET TROUBLE!
 AS DEEP AS THE WATER
 THAT WAGON LYING IN, LET ME
 THE BONES CHARACTER IN
 YOUR PLACE, ILL TELL
 I'M DOING THE
 DIVING!

Ferryman-
 If you want a
 corn 4.00 for
 not a ask for
 around 3.00
 at 10.00 but be-
 fore you go diving
 1 Bone

SHORTLY AFTER, AT THE CORONADO
 SALOON—

DON'T TELL
 ME, KID, YOU'RE
 THE FERRYMAN?

NO I'M DIVING FOR
 HIM, WHICH ONE
 OF YOU IS BONES?

ME IT'S LIKE THIS, KID—
 WE DON'T WANT THAT
 WAGON RAISED.
 WE WANT
 IT ON THE
 BOTTOM—
 IN THE
 MUD

WHY?

THAT'S WHY WE'RE GIVING
 YOU A HUNDRED BUCKS!
 DON'T DIVE, JAY! NO
 QUESTIONS ASKED!
 JUST WRITE OUT A
 REPORT THAT THE
 WAGON IS LODGED IN
 MUD AND ANY
 WORTH SAVING!

IT'S NOT EVERY
 DAY I CAN MAKE
 \$100 BY DOING
 NOTHING! IT'S
 A DEAL!

YOU'RE A SMART
 LAD! RUN ALONG
 NOW AND GIVE
 THE DIME TO
 THE FERRYMAN!

I'M MORE CONCERNED
 THAN EVER THAT
 WILSON DON'T GO
 OVER BY ACCIDENT!
 IF HONOR'S LAW
 BONES DON'T WANT
 IT RAISED THEN
 IT MUST BE SOMETHING
 IN IT THEY'D RATHER
 KEEP AT THE BOTTOM
 OF THE CREEK!

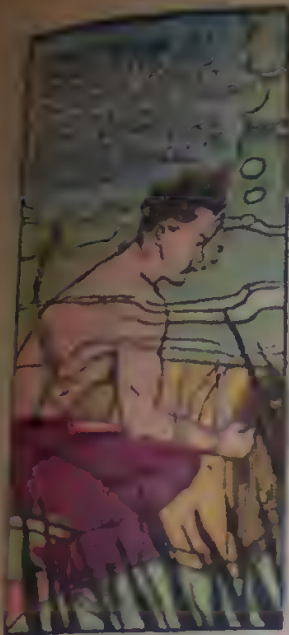
LATER THAT MORNING, IN THE
 MIDDLE OF THE CREEK

BE CAREFUL, BOB
 IF IT'S A DEED
 DIVE, COME RIGHT
 UP, WE GOT ENOUGH
 TROUBLE WITHOUT
 SOMEbody
 HAPPENING
 TO YOU!

DON'T WORRY
 GENTLEMEN! I
 JUST WANT A
 LOOK INSIDE
 THAT WAGON
 BE! RUN INTO
 TROUBLE IN
 TALK ON THE
 GROUND AND YOU
 KNOW ME!

THERE IT IS!... LOOARD
 IN MUD! C-C-CANT STAY
 DOWN LONG! I'M RE-
 GAINING TO FEEL THE
 PRESSURE IN MY EARS!

NOTHING DOWN HERE! NO HOLE, NO BULLET HOLES—
 THAT TRUNK! MAYBE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING IN IT!



SHORTLY AFTER, AT THE DOCK

HEY YOU! I TOLD
YUM NOT TO DIVE
I GAVE YOU A HUND
DRED BUCKS YOU
SHOULDN'T DIVE!
BUT I WATCHED
YUM YUM DOVE //

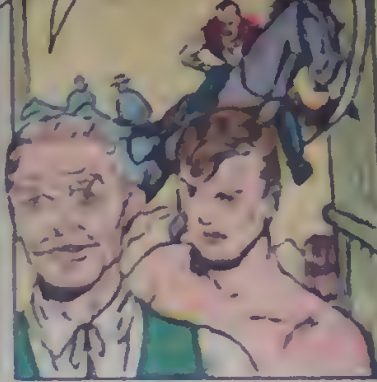
I HAD TO RAIDS
COUNT USE ME
IF I A MEAST
\$100 ME OVER
I'D D ME OFF
NECK THE PRISON
TUM D CUT TO BE
A DUN RTT

YOU'VE GOT NO HOW TO V...
ABOUT W... RECU... THAT
THE WAGON BE LEFT THERE.



WHY DIDN'T YUM SAY SO I HAD
YUM GUNS WOULD... THOUGH
YUM WERE DOUGLEDOWN HE

NOW DO YOU TAKE A
HEAT ABOUT THE...
...?



THAT AFTERNOON, AS RED FIVE AND GRAND'S COPI...
A CRUDE WAGON

I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU BUT I MUST / MY NAME
IS JAN JOHNSON I WORK IN THE ROCK D



I REMEMBER YOU, YOU'RE S...
ING / - ISN'T YOUR BROTHER?
I MEAN - HE'S DISAPPEARED,
HASN'T HE? JUST AFTER THE
ROBBERY

... BUT YOU MUST... THINK AS THE
SHERIFF... THAT ED... DO
... HE COULDN'T BE NOT
... EVERY
... A
... AFTER

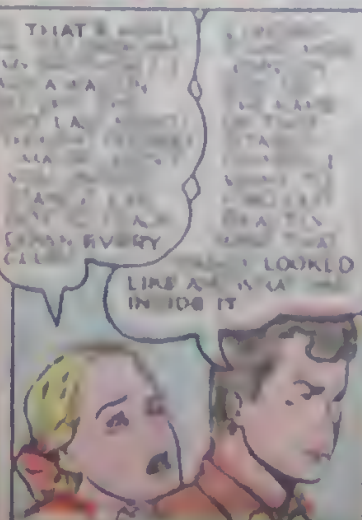


A-A WAGON

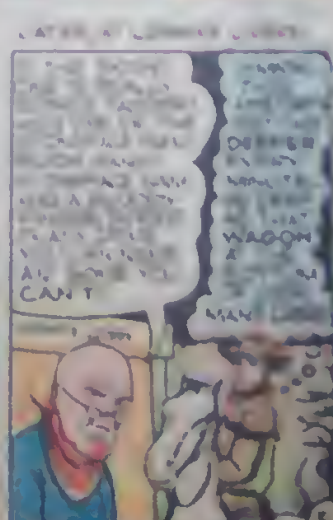


YES, THE... WAS A THIN MAN
WITH HAIR... NO BLU...
THE WAGON

A THIN MAN?
UP / YOU TALKED
UP / TH ON / MAN
TO BLU...



THAT...
... A...
... LA...
... EVERY
... LIKE A...
... IN THE IT



LATER A...
... WAGON
... CAN'T

BUT AS RED FIRE RETURNS TO GRANDP'S SHACK NEAR THE DOCK.

SURPRISED TO SEE ME NO? DON'T BE I GOT ANOTHER DEAL SOON. I'LL GIVE YUH ANOTHER \$100 TO RAISE SOME FINE INSIDE THE WAGON. A TRUNK!

A TRUNK EH? AND WHAT IF I REFUSE?

YUH WON'T KD. LUKE! BRING OUR DR. SOWERS IN.

I TOLD EM WE COULDN'T RAISE THE TRUNK. RED FIRE! THEY WAS THE SHERIFF'S JOB TO DO THEM!

HAND T-SHIRT. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE LAW.

FIRST WORRY ABOUT US! GET EM WOLF!

H-HEY!!

GASD! GET HIM AWAY FROM ME! MAKE S CHAVIN ME UP Y'BEOWYWWY

ALL RIGHT BOY! NOW YOU RAISE EM UP BACK AND TELL TON FACE I AM HE CAN DO STRAIGHT TO BLAZ. IF HE WANTS THAT TRUNK, HE'LL HAVE TO DIVE FOR IT HIMSELF!

OKAY R D FIRST Y-YUH STAY TOWARD DY'N YOUNG!

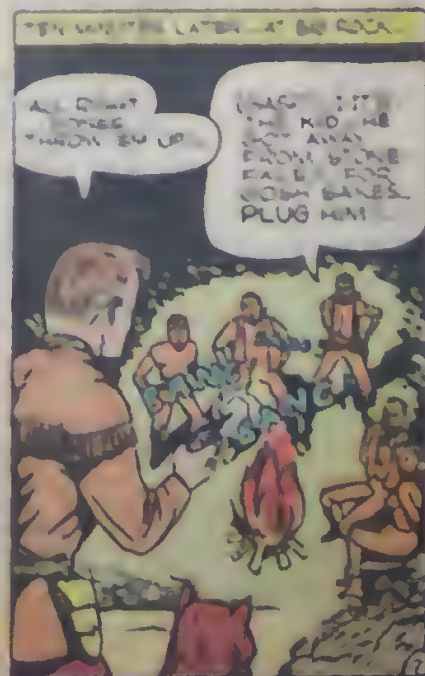
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'LL BE BUT IN OCEAN CAN

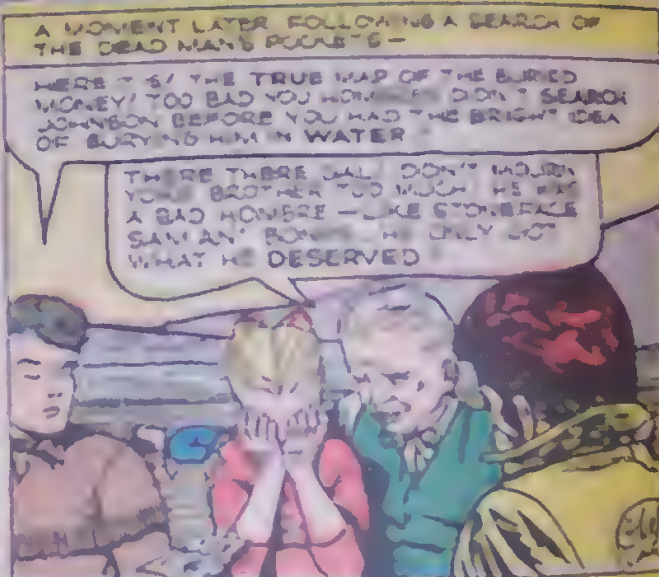
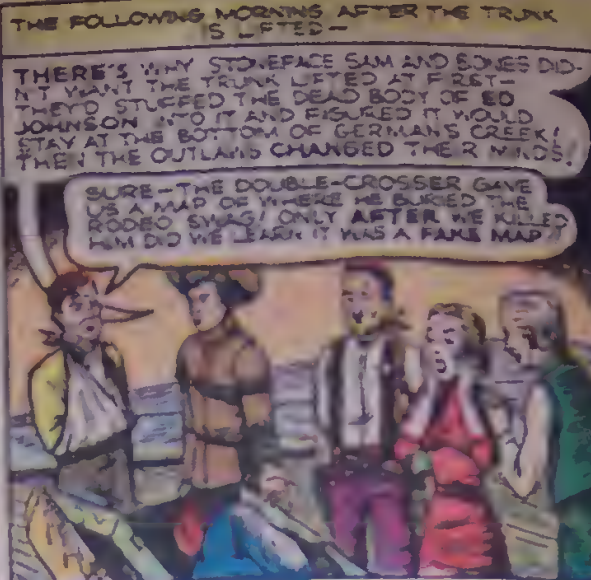
IT A RED FIRE FIGHTER FROM THE WATER.

ALL STONE

I'LL BE MY OWNED THE FROM AN INVENTED NOTION. I'LL BE YOUR LUCK. WE'LL HOLD ON YOU TWO DALS. Y'VE BUT DO IN WITH A DIVE BOY Y'U'LL DO Y'HA' WE'LL SAY ON THEY GET IT

(GASD!) I CAN'T FIN HIM IT. THE BOY ARE IN THE T. I'LL M.M.Y LUP. ARE BE TINI. (GASD!) I'LL HAVE TO THE NEXT DIVE!





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1. The names and addresses of the publisher of each issue of the magazine are:
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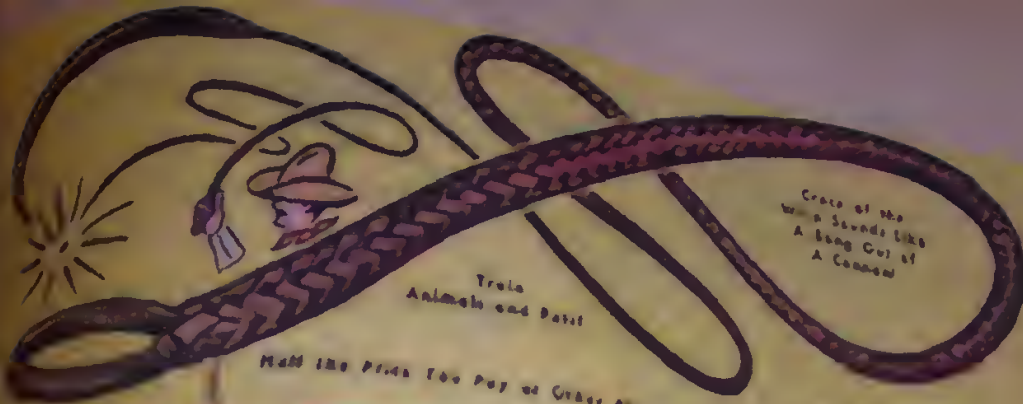
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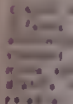
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